

EXTENDED WORK SESSION NOTES

Wed., January 19, 2022
3:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Commission Members: Chuck Green (Chair), Franklin Johnson (Vice Chair), Nancy Dong, Cass Freedland, Amy Gross, Meghan McCarthy, Larry Smith, Tanya Stewart, and Pamela Wheeler

Staff: Jenna Kay and Susan Ellinger, Community Planning

All members were present.

1. **179th St Access Management and Circulation Plan**

Matt Hermen with Clark County Public Works made a presentation on the 179th Street Access Management Plan. The purpose of the project is to provide a cohesive circulation and access management plan for the study corridor to guide future infrastructure improvements including access locations, intersection control and facility cross-section elements. The existing topography creates the need for a significant amount of cut and fill to realize the plan. There are a significant number of environmental constraints and recent development proposals that have gained approval that also needed consideration as a part of the project.

Several new neighborhood circulators, roundabouts and right-in/right-out intersections are proposed. Some intersections will have emergency vehicle access only and will be closed for general public use for anything other than non-motorized access. Others will remain full access in the interim but be modified once 179th Street is fully built. Pedestrian circulation and wildlife corridors are also provided for in the plan. A stakeholder advisory committee and technical advisory committee assisted is developing the plan. A public adoption process is planned in February and March 2022.

2. **2021 annual report**

The final version of the annual report was sent out to commission members on 1-18-2022. Staff encourages members to review the report prior to the February meeting and are looking for a proposed approach for the presentation to Council. A draft outline was shared. The presentation has varied in the past. Having each member take a portion of the presentation was suggested. Allowing just the Chair and Vice-Chair to present could possibly be more efficient and the presentation went long last year, so there was a desire to ensure that didn't occur again.

Having everyone involved is not the most efficient but support was expressed for the concept. It can help to break up the presentation and allows people to get to know the Commission members. There was general consensus for this approach. A meeting with the Council Chair and County Manager will give some highlights of the presentation in preparation for the February meeting.



- **ACTION ITEM:** For the February 16 meeting, staff to prepare presentation slides for the meeting, a script for the presentation, and work with the Chair and Vice Chair to assign roles and have a plan for if a speaker is unable to attend the meeting.

3. **2022 work plan details**

Chuck, Franklin, Larry and Cass volunteered for a subcommittee to assist with the Aging Readiness Plan update and RFP. The subcommittee was asked to present the plan for the RFP at the February meeting or via email and then draft the RFP with staff. To begin this effort, committee members asked staff to schedule a meeting for one hour in the next 2-3 weeks.

Staff presented the preliminary results of the survey. Some additional copies of the survey need to be picked up and were delayed due to COVID-related issues. To date we received 407 responses.

Information relating to race and older adults in the county and how it compares to survey results was raised. Staff outlined that census data may be able to provide some of this information and offered to look into data that was available. Jenna also requested to possibly have someone with medical experience assist with some of the results of the survey.

A question was raised by a member of the public who attended the meeting. He wondered how the demographics from the survey responses relate to those of the county as a whole and commented that showing the demographics by question would be informational. He also wondered why socio-economic information such as household income was not part of the survey.

Members discussed the survey responses for specific questions. Some discussion points included: low interest in provision of services, responses that showed the reliance on friends as a resource and how they relate to volunteerism or peer health education opportunities, low interest in technical-based communication and how that relates to telehealth, higher interest in social activities, healthy food and fitness. The subcommittee that helped develop the survey, which includes Franklin, Larry and Cass, will meet again to discuss the results. There was general support for using the survey as method for developing some monthly topics for discussion. The Chair requested that the subcommittee identify 5-6 monthly meeting topics and pick one March topic for staff to start coordinating. The full list of suggestions can be reviewed by the commission at their March meeting.

Adding a program of the month section to the front of each meeting, with organizations focusing their presentations on the services in the survey was discussed. There was general support for focusing on lessons learned from the survey results but also changes in the questions that should occur for any future survey. A review of the costs of providing the survey was requested from staff, to include translation services, printing and mailing costs.

Kudos were expressed for staff's work so far in analyzing the survey responses and for Cass and Franklin who provided significant help with the logistics for the survey.

General support was expressed for adding a program of the month that ties into a continued fireside chat format for 2022. The fireside chat format is more relaxed but provides more in depth information and a great learning experience. Pairing of the two formats gives the best of both worlds (the older program focused format for meetings and the newer fireside chat format for meetings).

- **ACTION ITEMS:** Schedule AR Plan Update subcommittee meeting, review census data in relation to survey data, consult with Commission member with medical experience

regarding of the results of the survey if needed, schedule survey subcommittee meeting, add program of the month to the agenda for meetings in 2022, compile costs of the survey, add monthly meeting topics to upcoming work session agenda.

4. Public comment procedures

Members discussed if there would be follow up when someone speaks to the Commission. As an example, Mr. Housley asked about revising the tax rate thresholds more than every five years. It is questionable if he expected a response, but the Commission did follow up with Assessor. It may be a good idea to have a procedure in place for what type of response is provided when a request is made. Members discussed the pros and cons of having staff provide a response and the need to ensure the Commission is not advocating for any particular position on political issues. A response could be that the County doesn't have staffing or budget to respond.

After further discussion, commission members agreed that if there is a request for advocacy or action, the commission won't formally provide a response at the meeting because they don't want to take action without providing notice. The commission can have a follow-up discussion at their next work session regarding the request and determine how to respond. If there are requests for follow-up (not advocacy), the Chair and Vice Chair can meet with county staff to debrief and confirm if any follow-up/response is needed. Members can review the amount for work these procedures involve and formalize a procedure in the future for next year if needed.

5. Other updates/communications

The Battle Ground Non-Motorized Transportation Action Plan was discussed. Members were asked if they had comments on the project or on barriers for non-motorized transportation? David Poland was suggested as a contact and issues including bicycles on sidewalks, the need to provide routes for all ages and abilities and wayfinding for blind travelers were raised.

The ODOT (Oregon Dept. of Transportation) tolling program and how it may affect people on fixed incomes was raised as a possible presentation topic. ODOT is willing to make a presentation and could also discuss how alternative transportation programs will be increased. There was general support for this as a presentation topic as many residents use the Oregon system.

The Current, C-Tran's on-demand rideshare service was discussed as a possible program of the month presentation. One member felt that due to safety concerns, many older adults won't ride public transportation. A C-Tran presenter could be paired with someone from public safety and ODOT for a fireside chat. Topics could include helping older adults to feel safe and making transportation easier for older adults. A recent experience with a public transit in Seattle was discussed including scooters being left on the sidewalks making navigation in some areas difficult.

- **ACTION ITEM:** For the transportation presentation requested above, ask presenters to discuss perceived threats for public transit vs. actual public safety data regarding transit and how to make older adults feel safe using public transit.

Staff reminded members that the last Housing Options Study Project Advisory Group meeting is January 25 from 3-5 PM. Public comments are welcomed. At least one housing strategy regarding visitability is tied to a COA recommendation and others are tied to their previous work.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Staff to email commission members a link to the housing recommendations document and a link to meeting.

The need for additional review of the by-laws was discussed. The committee made fairly significant changes last year, so no changes were seen as needed. No action needed this year.

The AADSWA (Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities of Southwest Washington) meeting in December included discussion on closed loop referral networks and Zinnia TV, a channel providing a calm, enriching environment for people experiencing dementia.

Public health updates on the COVID-19 pandemic as of January 14 were shared.

The next meeting will include a work session followed by the joint meeting with the County Council. Staff will send two separate Webex invites. The meeting will be on February 16.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Create Webex invites with the work session starting time (3:15 or 3:30 PM) based on the number of discussion items.

6. **Next Meeting:** February 16, 2022 at 3:15 PM

7. **Adjournment:** the work session adjourned at 5:43pm

The Clark County Commission on Aging provides leadership in community engagement and advocacy of Clark County's Aging Readiness Plan, especially for those 65 and over who plan to age in the place of their choosing.